

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A method for performing a surgical procedure with a robotic  
2 surgical system comprising:  
3                   providing a plurality of surgical instrument assemblies each comprising a  
4 wrist unit having a shaft with a proximal end and a distal wrist, and an instrument coupled  
5 to the distal wrist;  
6                   connecting the proximal end of the wrist unit shaft of one of the surgical  
7 instrument assemblies to a manipulator arm; and  
8                   introducing the instrument of said one of the surgical instrument  
9 assemblies to a treatment site on a patient with the manipulator arm.

1                   2.     The method of claim 1 further comprising removing the instrument  
2 of said one of the surgical instrument assemblies from the treatment site and  
3 disconnecting the proximal end of the wrist unit shaft of said one of the surgical  
4 instrument assemblies from the manipulator arm.

1                   3.     The method of claim 1 further comprising connecting the proximal  
2 end of the wrist unit shaft of another one of the surgical instrument assemblies to the  
3 manipulator arm, and introducing the instrument of said another one of the surgical  
4 instrument assemblies to the treatment site with the manipulator arm.

1                   4.     The method of claim 1 further comprising pivoting the instrument  
2 about the distal wrist of the wrist unit shaft.

1                   5.     The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                   shielding the manipulator arm from the treatment site with a sterile drape;  
3                   attaching a sterile adaptor to the manipulator arm through the sterile drape;  
4 and  
5                   attaching the proximal end of the wrist unit shaft of said one of the surgical  
6 instrument assemblies to the sterile adaptor.